

NEWINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
School Administrative Unit 50
48 Post Road, Greenland, New Hampshire 03840
Phone (603) 422-9572 Fax (603) 422-9575

The regular monthly meeting of the Newington School Board took place on Tuesday, December 10, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. at the Newington Public School.

PRESENT:

School Board Members: Dr. Mark Joyce (Chair)
Mr. Jack O'Reilly
Mr. Chris Russo

Administrators: Salvatore Petralia, Superintendent
Kelli Killen, Assistant Superintendent
Mindy Ryan, Business Administrator
Sarah Reinhardt, Special Education Director
Brian Grattan, Director of Technology
Peter Latchaw, Principal

Other Staff Present: Samantha Fuller, Secretary to the Superintendent

Visitors: Beth Brown, NPS Teacher

CALL TO ORDER – Dr. Joyce called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

On a motion by Mr. O'Reilly, seconded by Mr. Russo, the public minutes of November 12, 2019 were approved. Vote: 3-0

On a motion by Mr. O'Reilly, seconded by Mr. Russo, the non-public minutes of November 12, 2019 were approved. Vote: 3-0

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Petralia informed the Board he had received the annual PHS Graduation Celebration Fundraiser information, a letter from NHSBA regarding the upcoming Delegate Assembly (January 2020), and an update from Plodzik and Sanderson Accounting outlining auditing procedures.

Dr. Joyce inquired about how the cost breakdown of the auditing was determined for each district and if Newington's share was represented in the FY 2021 budget. Mr. Petralia and Ms. Ryan shared the cost was based on the size of the district; each district received a different quote. A purchase order was established for FY 2020 costs; going forward for FY 2021 there is a budget line for the auditing cost.

FINANCIAL REPORT

On a motion by Mr. Russo, seconded by Mr. O'Reilly, the manifest for November 13, through December 5, 2019 was approved in the amount of \$97,513.93. Vote: 3-0

Dr. Joyce noted \$88,261 currently in the unappropriated fund balance. There was discussion regarding surplus and warrant articles going forward.

RECOGNITION OF GROUPS OR INDIVIDIAL VISITORS

Dr. Joyce welcomed Ms. Beth Brown, NPS Kindergarten/Grade 1 Teacher, to the meeting.

REPORTS

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Petralia noted he had an additional communication; a Blizzard Bag approval letter from the NHDOE.

Mr. Petralia noted that recent water samples were taken from the school on Wednesday, November 6th. The results indicated water samples were all within normal range.

Dr. Joyce asked Mr. Latchaw to communicate the water testing results to parents.

Mr. Petralia stated members of the SAU 50 administration met with Mr. Latchaw on November 19th to review recommendations for the FY 2021 Preliminary Budget.

Mr. Petralia confirmed that a motion made during the November School Board meeting regarding retainage was valid and reflected the current tax rate.

Dr. Joyce requested the School Board meet on December 18th in Rye prior to the SAU 50 Joint Board meeting to approve the preliminary budget. He asked Board member to send any budget questions they may have to Ms. Ryan no later than Monday, December 16th.

Assistant Superintendent Report

Ms. Killen previously provided the Board several statistical items (which can be found using the DOE iReport portal), regarding Newington students' overall academic growth and student achievement. She shared information regarding on SAT scores over the last five years in Reading, Writing and Math. Dr. Joyce noted that Newington students are doing well and asked NPS teachers also be made aware of the information.

Ms. Killen shared Portsmouth High School Graduating Data from 2019. Dr. Joyce asked if there was a way to follow how students finish in college. Ms. Killen shared there is currently no guaranteed way to track college completion for Newington students.

Principal's Report

Mr. Latchaw provided information regarding a PESI workshop he attended on November 20th titled Trauma-Informed Schools and Adverse Childhood Experiences. The workshop focused on

how the brain deals with trauma and how it affects a student's learning. He has encouraged his colleagues and staff to attend one of these powerful workshops.

Mr. Latchaw highlighted Ms. Brown and Mr. Tooker for a recent presentation they led at the Annual Christ McAuliffe Conference. Their presentation was focused on creating a student friendly podcast and how to incorporate podcasts into daily lessons.

Ms. Brown added that she and Mr. Tooker presented to about 40 people at the event. The presentation included how to amplify student voices using pod casts. She added her experience that the majority of children have so much visual stimulation; the podcast exercise helps to build stamina for listening.

Mr. Latchw noted NPS recently took advantage of their first 2019-2020 remote instruction day (ie: blizzard bag). Overall, the results were positive with 42 out of the 50 enrolled students completing the assigned work within the scheduled timeframe. The remaining students worked on the assignments over the following day.

Mr. Russo, who has a student at NPS, noted his child was surprised at the amount of work they had to complete in a day.

Mr. Latchaw noted a recent news article in which as Seacoast Mental Health representative referenced the outstanding work of NPS staff in their approach and efforts in practicing emergency drills.

Mr. Latchaw provided Board members with a quote from Mammoth Fire Service to replace the gas sensor in the kitchen and tie it to the main fire panel. He previously reviewed said quote with Lt. Marsh and Chief Hoyt to ensure the quote would cover all deficiencies.

Mr. Latchaw shared that Hart Plumbing is preparing a quote for some small maintenance issues.

Mr. Latchaw stated NPS was still in search of a one on one behavioral monitor.

Board Reports

Facility – Mr. Russo commented the Technology Committee met and reviewed work being done in response to HB 1612.

Policy – The Policy Binder is currently under review by attorney William Phillips of the NHSBA.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Fire Alarm Update

Mr. Latchaw reiterated the most of the bids to get the fire alarm up to code came in at about \$7100, and the project is moving forward. Ms. Ryan noted the purchase order for the work, was reflected in the bottom line of the budget.

NEW BUSINESS

Preliminary Budget

Dr. Joyce asked Board members to provide in writing, preliminary budget question they may have and send to Mr. Petralia by Monday.

Mr. Petralia highlighted several elements from the budget work session with administrators in November. He noted Mr. Latchaw presented his budget and personnel changes in an efficient manner. Enrollment for the 2020-2021 year is anticipated to be at sixty students.

Mr. Latchaw mentioned the increase is due to an overall growth in the town. He added that the projection included 13 new kindergarten students for 2020-2021.

Draft Warrant Articles

Dr. Joyce requested information from Ms. Ryan on current unencumbered funds and retainage. The trust funds discussed. Mr. Joyce questioned if there needs to be additional funding in the Special Education Trust Fund. Ms. Reinhardt shared that to date she does not anticipate exceeding the Special Education Budget for next year (she will have a better estimate by the January School Board meeting).

PHS Graduation Celebration

On a motion by Mr. O'Reilly, seconded by Mr. Russo, the Board approved a donation of \$250 for the Portsmouth High School Graduation Celebration. Vote 3-0

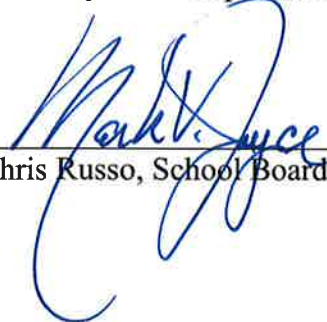
PERSONNEL- None

NON PUBLIC SESSION - None

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Dr. Joyce, seconded by Mr. O'Reilly, the Board adjourned their meeting at 5:43 p.m. Vote: 3-0

Respectfully Submitted,
Samantha Fuller
Secretary to the Superintendent



Chris Russo, School Board Secretary

Date